Amendments to the Drawing Figures:

The attached drawing sheets include proposed changes to FIGs. 1 and 4 and replace the original sheets including FIGs. 1, 2, and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

The applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority documents.

The attached replacement drawings correct an omission of an arrow from block 12 to block 14, and add text to blank boxes. No new matter is added.

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons. The claims are not narrowed in intended scope and no new matter is added.

The Office action rejects claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Guha (USP 5,699,369), Doshi et al. (USP 5,130,986, hereinafter Doshi), and Kang et al. (USP 6,615,382, hereinafter Kang). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Conventional communication systems apply error correction at each link of a network, because each link will generally have its own likelihood of error. As noted in Kang, for example, a wired optical link will generally have a lower likelihood of errors than a wireless link, and different error-correcting schemes are used at each link (Kang, column 1, lines 19-33).

The applicants teach and claim the generation of redundancy packets from media packets, before the packets are provided to the transmission network, wherein the receiver provides feedback to the transmitter based on packet errors occurring on the transmission network. As taught by the applicants, this error-correction process provides for end-to-end forward error correction, regardless of the techniques used at each link. Each of the cited prior art references addresses error correction at the link level, i.e. between nodes within or on the edge of the transmission network. None of the cited prior art references address analyzing packet errors at the transmission network level. In the interest of advancing prosecution in this case, but without narrowing the intended scope of the claims, each of the independent claims are amended to recite that the redundant packets are generated from the media packets above the OSI Network Level (OSI Level 3).

Guha teaches an adaptive forward error correction system that adds forward error correction at the ATM Adaptation Layer (AAL) of an ATM communication protocol. As is known in the art, and as illustrated in Guha's FIG. 2, the ATM Adaptation Layer is within the OSI Data Link Layer (OSI layer 2): "The ATM layer and AAL correspond to parts of OSI layer 2" (Guha, column 5, lines 28-29). In like manner, as illustrated in Kang's FIG. 3, Kang teaches that the forward error correction is applied at each link of the network: "The present invention relates to a method for controlling errors in the link layer" (Kang, column 6, lines 64-66). Doshi predates the use of the OSI model, and does not refer to a link layer per se. However, the fact that Doshi's system addresses flow control necessarily implies a technique for use at the link layer.

Because neither Guha, nor Doshi, nor Kang, teaches or suggests generating redundancy packets above the OSI Network Level (OSI Level 3) from media packets so as to provide an error correction capability for packet errors occurring on the transmission network, as claimed in each of the applicants' independent claims, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Guha, Doshi, and Kang.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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